

Appl. No.: 10/756,588  
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Off. Act. Dated: 01/22/2007

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-63 (canceled)

64. (original): A method for treatment of the prostate gland, comprising:  
inserting a catheter assembly into the general proximity of the target prostate gland;  
placing the distal end of said inserted catheter assembly in a space between the rectum and the prostate gland;  
inflating an inflatable member of the catheter assembly between the prostate gland and the rectal wall;  
initiating and conducting treatment of the prostate gland tissue; and  
deflating the inflatable member of the catheter assembly and removing said catheter assembly once treatment is completed.

65. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:  
sensing and monitoring the temperature of the rectal wall and the surface of prostate gland during the treatment of the prostate gland.

66. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:  
sensing and monitoring the temperature of the surface of the inflatable member during the treatment of the prostate gland.

67. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:

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monitoring the temperature of a fluid within said inflatable member during the treatment of the prostate gland.

68. (withdrawn): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising: inflating or circulating a thermally conductive fluid through said catheter assembly during the treatment of the prostate gland by thermotherapy.
69. (withdrawn): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising: regulating the temperature and flow of said thermally conductive fluid through said catheter assembly during the treatment of the prostate gland.
70. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising: inflating or circulating a thermally non-conductive fluid through said catheter assembly during the treatment of the prostate gland by thermotherapy.
71. (currently amended): A method as recited in claim 64 70, further comprising: regulating the temperature and flow of said thermally non-conductive fluid through said catheter assembly during the treatment of the prostate gland.
72. (currently amended): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising: inflating or circulating a fluid through said catheter assembly that is below the normal body temperature during the treatment of the prostate gland by thermotherapy; said treatment comprising heating the prostate gland.
73. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising: inflating said inflatable member with a gas to physically displace the prostate from the rectal wall and form an acoustic barrier to protect rectal wall or surrounding tissue; and

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initiating and completing ultrasonic treatment of the prostate gland.

74. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, further comprising:  
inflating said inflatable member with an acoustically transmissible material to  
allow for diagnostic imaging;

replacing said acoustically transmissible material with an acoustically blocking  
material to physically displace the prostate from the rectal wall; and form an acoustic  
barrier to protect the rectal wall or surrounding tissue; and

initiating and completing ultrasonic treatment of the prostate gland.

75. (original): A method as recited in claim 74, wherein pressure within said  
catheter assembly remains constant during the replacement of said gas with said liquid.

76. (original): A method as recited in claim 74, wherein the temperature of said  
liquid replacing said gas is lower than the temperature of the body.

77. (original): A method as recited in claim 74, wherein the temperature of said  
liquid replacing said gas is higher than the temperature of the body.

78. (original): A method as recited in claim 64, wherein the insertion and  
placement of the catheter assembly is monitored by a process selected from the group  
consisting essentially of CT, fluoroscopic imaging, magnetic resonance imaging and  
transrectal or external ultrasonic imaging and X-ray.

79. (currently amended): A method for treatment of a diseased tissue site,  
comprising:

inserting a catheter assembly into the general proximity of a diseased tissue site;

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placing the distal end of said inserted catheter assembly at an edge between the target tissue site and a sensitive healthy tissue or non-targeted site;

inflating an inflatable member of the catheter assembly between the target tissue and non-targeted tissue to physically displace the target tissue from the non-targeted tissue;

initiating and conducting treatment of the target tissue once the inflatable member is inflated; and

deflating the inflatable member of the catheter assembly and removing said catheter assembly once treatment is completed.

80. (original): A method as recited in claim 79, further comprising:

sensing and monitoring the temperature of the sensitive tissues during the treatment of the target tissue.

81. (original): A method as recited in claim 79, further comprising:

monitoring the temperature of the inflatable member during the treatment of the target tissue.

82. (withdrawn): A method as recited in claim 79, further comprising:

cycling a thermally conductive fluid through said catheter assembly during the treatment of the target tissue by thermotherapy.

83. (withdrawn): A method as recited in claim 82, further comprising:

regulating at least one of the temperature, pressure and flow of said thermally conductive fluid through said catheter assembly during the treatment of the target tissue.

84. (original): A method as recited in claim 79, further comprising:

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inflating said inflatable member with a gas to physically displace the target tissue from the sensitive tissue and form an acoustic barrier;

initiating and completing ultrasonic treatment of the target tissue; and

replacing said gas within said inflatable member and said catheter assembly with a liquid after the conclusion of the ultrasonic treatment of the target tissue.

85. (original): A method as recited in claim 79, further comprising:

regulating the pressure of said gas within said catheter assembly and said inflatable member.

86. (original): A method as recited in claim 84, wherein the temperature of said liquid replacing said gas is lower than the temperature of the body.

87. (original): A method as recited in claim 79, wherein the insertion and placement of the catheter assembly is monitored by a process selected from the group consisting essentially of CT fluoroscopic imaging, magnetic resonance imaging and transrectal or external ultrasonic imaging.

88. (original): A method for radiation treatment of the prostate gland, comprising:

inserting a catheter assembly into the general proximity of the target prostate gland;

placing the distal end of said inserted catheter assembly in a space between the rectum and the prostate gland;

inflating an inflatable member of the catheter assembly between the prostate gland and the rectal wall;

initiating and conducting radiation treatment of the prostate gland tissue; and

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deploying said inflatable member and said catheter assembly for the duration of the implantation.

89. (original): A method as recited in claim 88, further comprising:  
inflating said inflatable member with material that modifies radiation dose distribution.
90. (original): A method as recited in claim 88, further comprising the step of:  
sensing the exposure of said catheter assembly to radiation after initiating and conducting radiation therapy of said prostate gland.
91. (original): A method as recited in claim 88, further comprising the step of:  
sensing the exposure of tissues surrounding the prostate gland to radiation after initiating and conducting radiation therapy of said prostate gland.
92. (original): A method as recited in claim 88, further comprising the step of:  
repositioning tissues that are in close proximity to the prostate gland prior to initiating and conducting radiation therapy of said prostate gland.

Claims 93-98: (cancelled).